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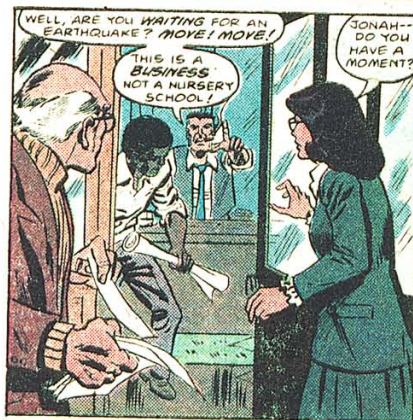
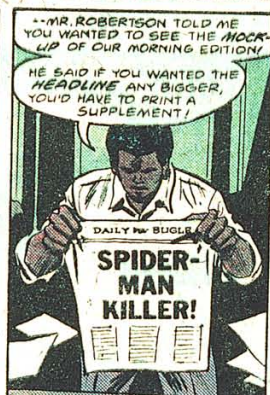
I DON'T CARE
WHAT YOU SAY!
SPIDER-MAN
KILLED MY
SON!!

AND SO HELP
ME, I'LL SEE
HIM FRY!



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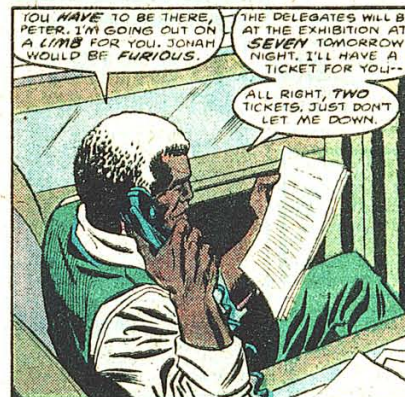
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MEANWHILE, AT PETER PARKER'S CHELSEA PAD...



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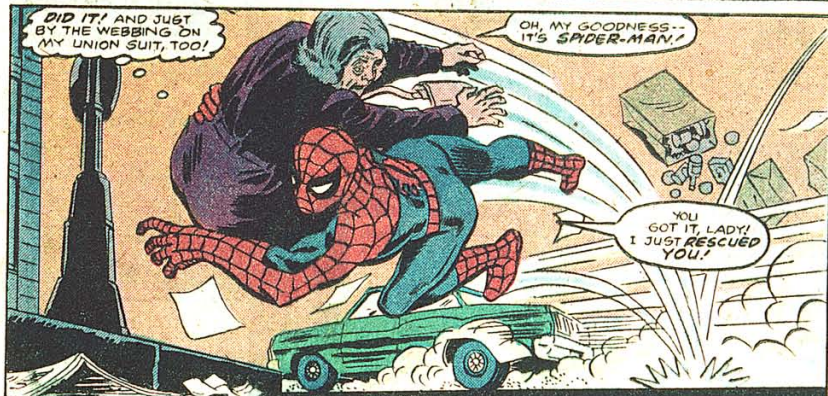
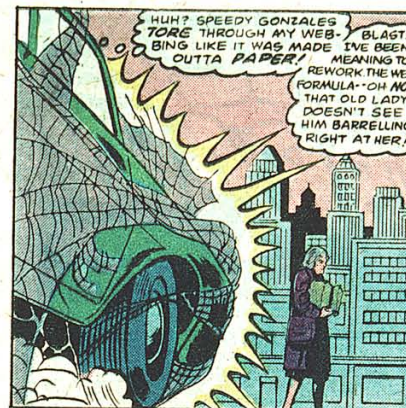
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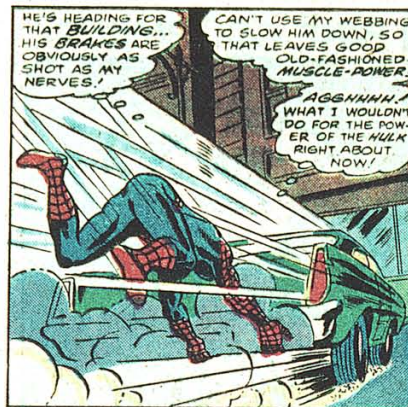
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HE'S HEADING FOR THAT BUILDING... HIS BRAKES ARE OBVIOUSLY AS SHOT AS MY NERVES!

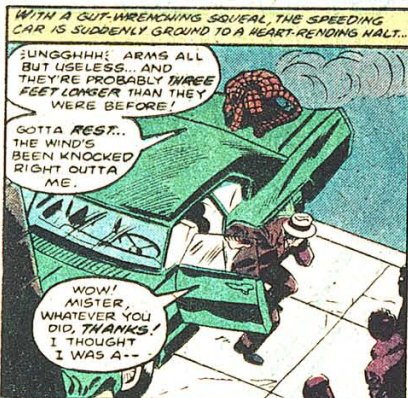
CAN'T USE MY WEBBING TO SLOW HIM DOWN, SO THAT LEAVES GOOD OLD-FASHIONED MUSCLE-POWER!

AGGHHH! WHAT I WOULDN'T DO FOR THE POWER OF THE HULK RIGHT ABOUT NOW!



PAIN SHOOTING UP MY ARMS, AND THE EXHAUST'S BLOWING RIGHT INTO MY FACE--

BLASTED CAR'S JUST DRAGGING ME ALONG WITH IT-- SOMEHOW I GOTTA USE THE CURB TO ANCHOR MYSELF!



WITH A CUT-WRENCHING SQUEAL, THE SPEEDING CAR IS SUDDENLY GROUND TO A HEART-RENDING HALT...

UUGGHHH! ARMS ALL BUT USELESS... AND THEY'RE PROBABLY THREE FEET LONGER THAN THEY WERE BEFORE!

GOTTA REST... THE WIND'S BEEN KNOCKED RIGHT OUTTA ME.

WOW! MISTER, WHATEVER YOU DID, THANKS! I THOUGHT I WAS A--



OH, NO-- IT'S YOU, SPIDER-MAN!

A PLEASE DON'T HURT ME... DON'T COME AT ME!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO LOSE CONTROL-- DON'T HURT ME!

HEY, SLOW DOWN, WHATTA TALKIN' ABOUT? WHO'S HURTING ANYONE? I JUST SAVED YOU!

S-STAY BACK...



FEARFULLY THE FRIGHTENED DRIVER LEAPS INTO HIS CAR, GUNS THE ENGINE, AND...

NOW WILL SOMEONE PLEASE TRY EXPLAINING THAT?

I BREAK NEARLY EVERY BONE IN MY BODY TO SAVE THAT CREE--



HUH? THAT HEADLINE ON THE BUSLE--

OH... MY... GOD!



ALL RIGHT, JAMESON, NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!

WE'VE BEEN SPARRING FOR YEARS! --BUT NOW YOU'VE BLOWN IT, MISTER, YOU'VE BLOWN IT!



THIS IS THE ADDRESS, MARLA. HE'LL HELP US. I'M SURE OF IT.

BUT, JONAH--

NO BUTS, MARLA, MY MIND IS SET!



WHO IS IT? COUGH WHO, JAMESON?!

THAT'S RIGHT, SAY THE. ONCE YOU PROMISE NEVER TO HELP ME AGAIN, BUT I NEED YOU.

MONEY IS NO OBJECT! I WANT THE BEST SPIDER-SLAYER YOU CAN BUILD!

COUGH COUGH EXCUSE ME, JAMESON. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



THE ASTONISHED SPENCER SMYTHE ENTERS THE BATHROOM AND TRI-UNIMANTLY SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM...

COUGH COUGH IT'S BETTER THAN I DREAMED! I WANTED JAMESON IN MY CLUTCHES AND HE COMES WALKING RIGHT INTO MY LAIR.

THIS IS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

IT'S MY CHANCE TO PAY HIM BACK FOR EVERYTHING HE'S DONE TO ME!



BY FORCING ME TO BUILD SPIDER-SLAYER, AFTER SPIDER-SLAYER, HE CONSTANTLY EXPOSED ME TO DEADLY RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS...

BUT BEFORE I DIE... I'LL SEE HIM DEAD... AND THAT INFERNAL WALL-CRAWLER, TOO!

A MOMENT LATER, A SEEMINGLY CALM SPENCER SMYTHE RE-JOINS J. JONAH JAMESON...

WELL? WELL? WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER, SMYTHE? ARE YOU WITH ME?

ACROSS TOWN, A LITHE RED AND BLUE FIGURE LOWERS HIMSELF TO A CERTAIN WINDOW LEDGE...

TOWER! I HAVE TO SPEAK TO YOU-- NOW! JAMESON'S PUSHED ME TOO FAR! IF I DON'T GET HELP I'M GONNA STRIKE BACK-- ANYWAY I HAVE TO!

COME IN, COME IN. BUT NE TIME PHONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT, WILL YOU? I'M USUALLY A BUSY MAN.

KNOCK IT OFF, TOWER! YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE, AND YOU'RE ONE OF THE FEW CITY BOYS WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO WANT MY NECK IN A NOOSE! CAN I TALK FREELY?



AND NOW THAT BLITHERING FOOL HAS HANDED ME HIS DEATH RIGHT ON A SILVER PLATTER!

BUT WE MUST BE ALONE, SEND THE WOMAN AWAY.



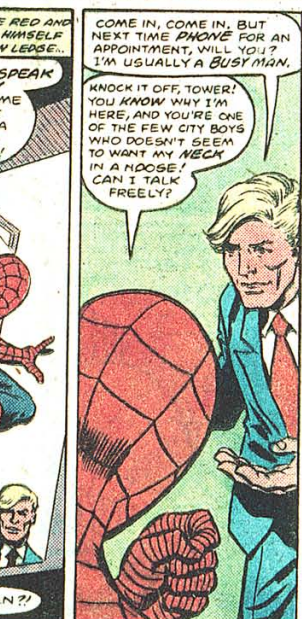
YES, JAMESON, DO IT...

SPIDER-MAN?



SPIDER-MAN?

SPIDER-MAN?



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SPIDER-MAN?

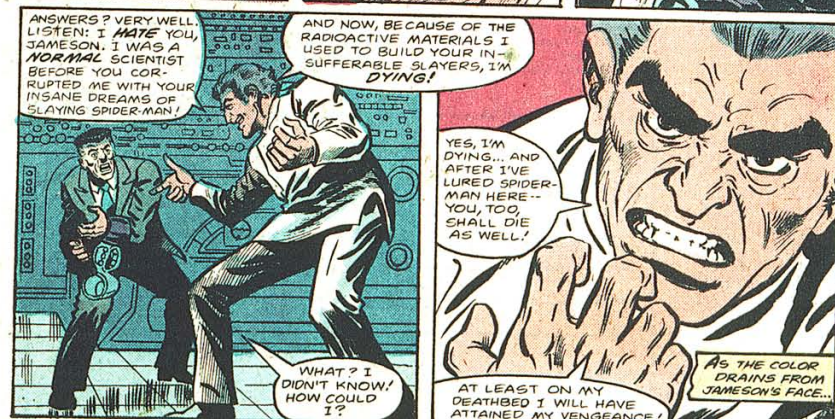
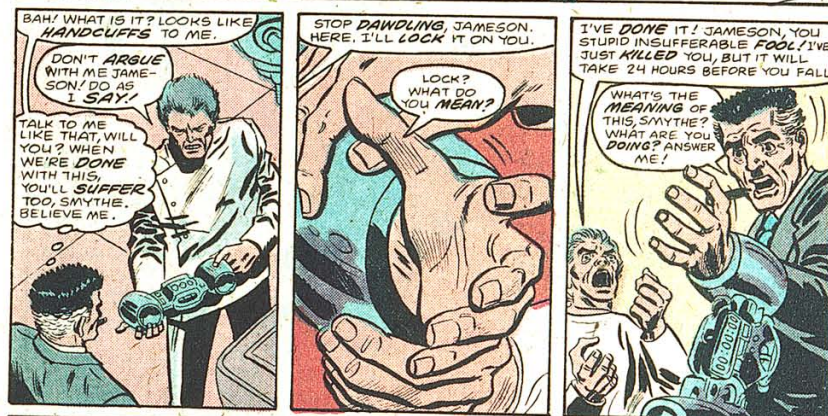
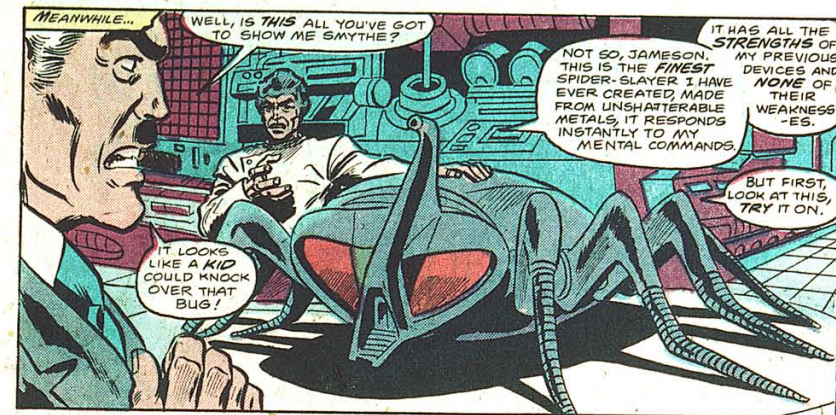
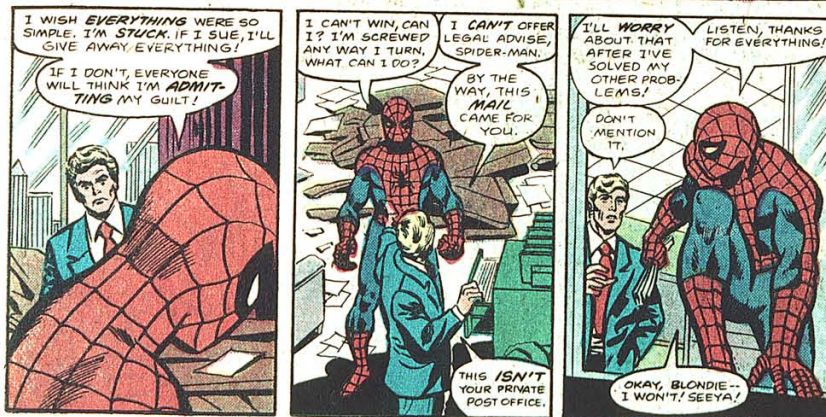
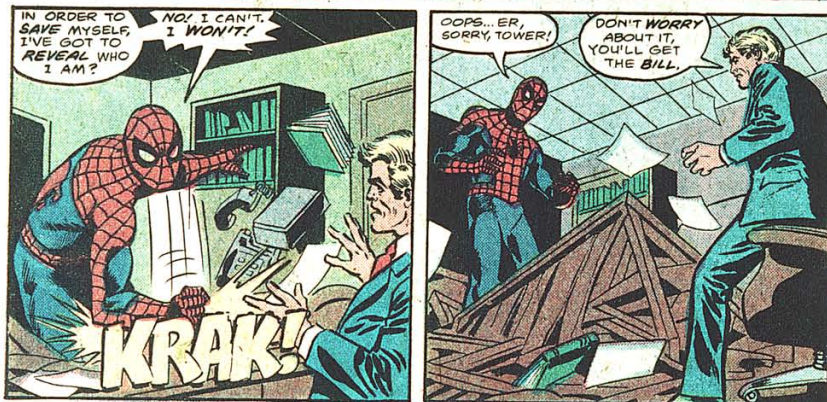
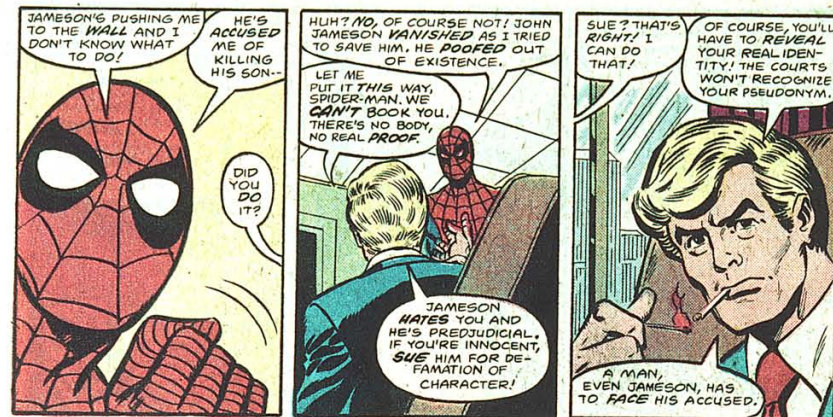
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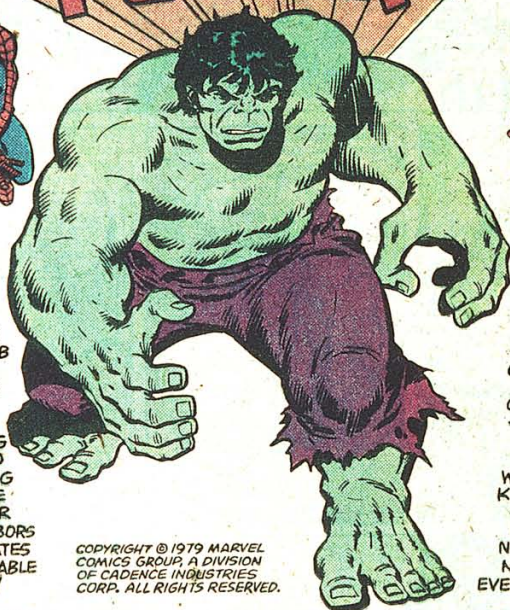
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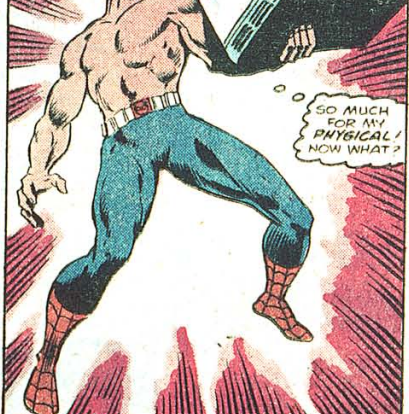
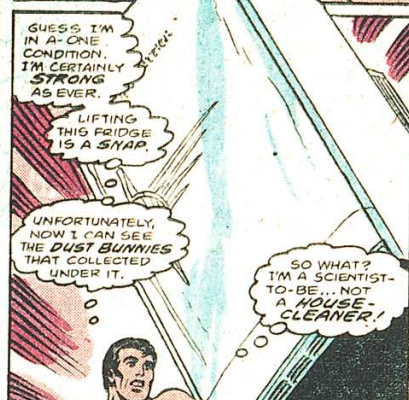
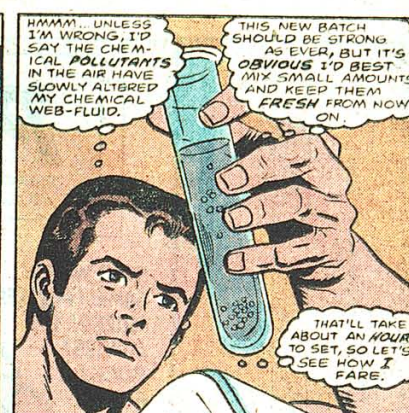
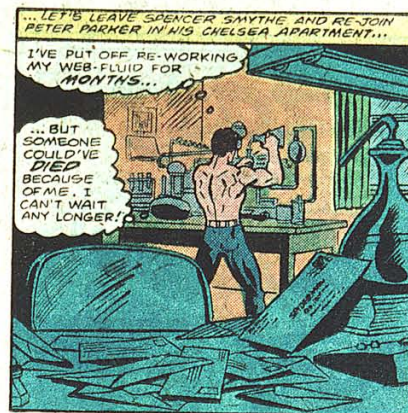
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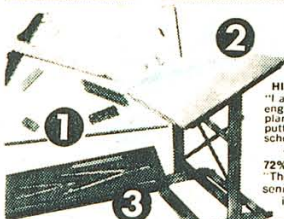
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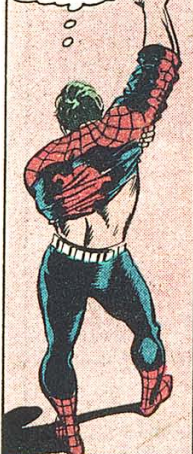


WHY? WHY DO I ALWAYS DO THIS TO MYSELF?

I WANT JAMESON RIGHT HERE-- I WANNA STRANGLE THAT UGLY LITTLE FACE OF--

I'VE PUT UP WITH JAMESON'S GARBAGE LONG ENOUGH. IT'S TIME THE TWO OF US HAD A SNOWDOWN.

HE SITS BEHIND HIS DESK MAKING ACCUSATIONS WITHOUT CARING.



WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME FLAT-HEAD HAD A CARE ABOUT SOMETHING!



I'M GONNA BARGE INTO THAT FANCY OFFICE OF HIS AND SHOW HIM HOW HIS STUPID EDITORIALS CAN MAKE SOMEONE REAL MAD!



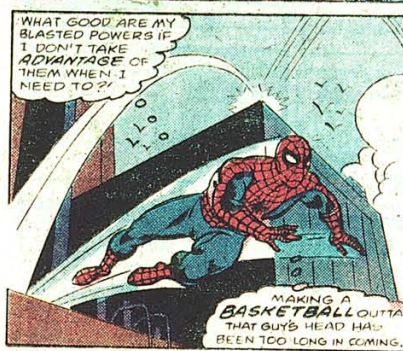
AND THAT SOMEONE IS ME!

AND, LIKE THEY SAY ON THAT T.V. SHOW-- HE'S NOT GONNA LIKE ME WHEN I GET MAD!



I'VE RESCUED THAT DUNDER-HEAD A DOZEN TIMES, AND ALL I EVER GET IN THANKS IS ANOTHER ROTTEN EDITORIAL BLASTING ME TO PIECES.

I'VE BEEN A FOOL. NOT TO FIGHT BACK.



WHAT GOOD ARE MY BLASTED POWERS IF I DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM WHEN I NEED TO?

MAKING A BASKETBALL OUTTA THAT GUY'S HEAD HAS BEEN TOO LONG IN COMING.

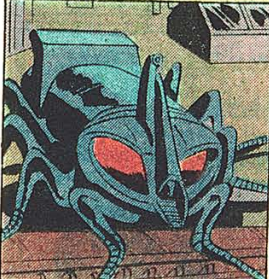


I WANTED BORN INTO THIS WORLD TO BECOME THAT SHORT-HAired BUFFOON'S PERSONAL SCAPEGOAT!

BUT, SO HELP ME, THAT'S GONNA END... TODAY... RIGHT NOW!

MR. J. JONAH JAMESON AND I ARE AHEADIN' FOR A SNOWDOWN!

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THEN-- HUNH? MY SPIDER-SENSES ARE TINGLING AWAY LIKE MAD!



DANGER-- COMING UP FROM BEHIND-- BUT WHAT?

STEEL THREADS WRAPPING AROUND ME... SOMEONE'S GONE TO SOME GREAT EXPENSE TO TIE ME UP!



OH, MY ACHING BACK-- I DON'T BELIEVE IT! A SPIDER-SLAYER!

I THOUGHT THOSE JOKERS WENT OUT OF STYLE WITH HIGH-BUTTON SHOES!



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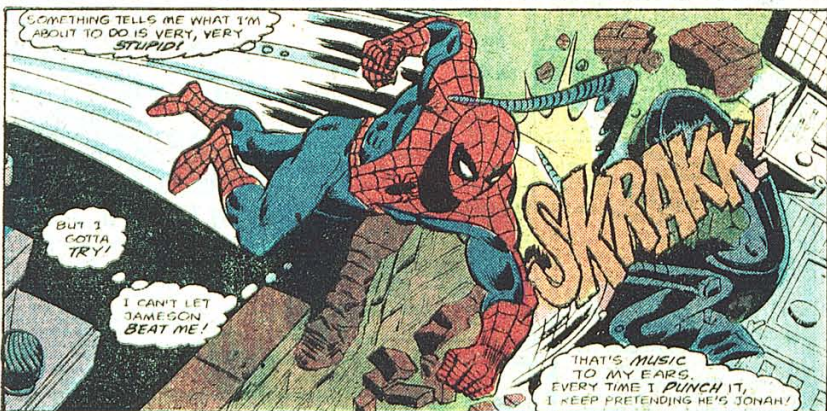
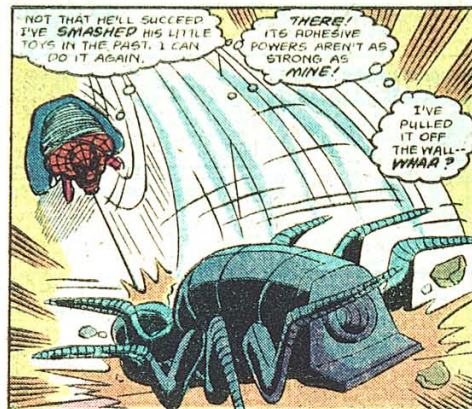
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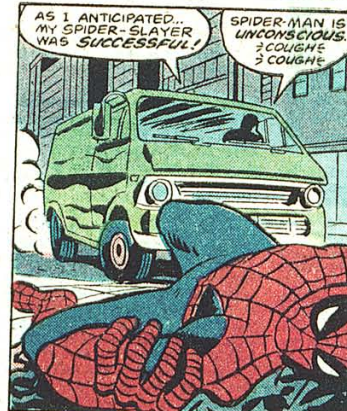
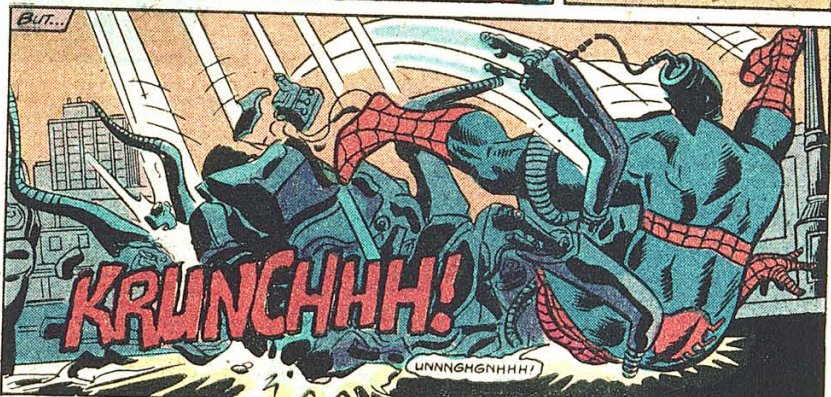
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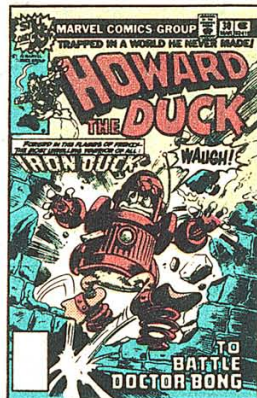
Gigantic news, gang! Here's the blockbuster I've been waiting years to announce! Remember the almost legendary original Spider-Man and Dr. Strange strips—the ones done by yours truly and Steve Ditko? The ones that helped to make the wondrous web-slinger and the mystical Master of Black Magic two of the most popular heroes ever to grace the pandemonious pages of a Marvel mag? And remember how Sturdy Steve one day up and left the bewildered Bullpen to seek other paths of glory? Well, not only have I been eagerly awaiting his eventual return, but most of Marveldom Assembled has been waiting for it too, judging by the mountain of letters we've received over the years asking when the dazzling Mr. D. would return to the realm of the True Believer! In fact, I don't think I've ever spoken at a campus anywhere without at least half-a-dozen misty-eyed Marvelophiles imploring me to find some way to get Steve to vend his way home again! Okay now—here comes the good part! Ditko's back—and Marvel's got him! You'll be seeing his own brand of artistic magic in some of our greatest and most exciting mags, coming your way soon! Forgive me for sounding as if this is some sort of hard-sell commercial plug—it isn't meant to be. It's just that I feel incredibly sentimental about one of our original greats climbing aboard again, just as I felt when Jolly Jack Kirby returned to the scenes of his former glory! (For those of you who've been wondering what Jack is up to now, he's doing our storyboard layouts for NBC-TV's "Fantastic Four" Saturday A.M. animated show—miss 'em at your own risk!) And now, on behalf of the whole blissful Bullpen, and countless legions of Marvelites everywhere, let me joyfully shout "Welcome back, Steve! It's been a long wait, but it's gonna be worth it—'cause the best lies just ahead!"

Excelsior!

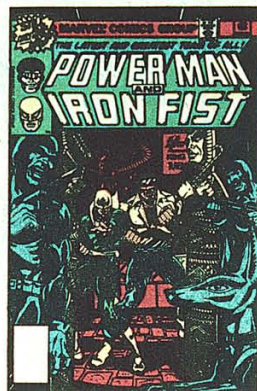
Stan

ITEM! Most Outrageous Oversight of 1978 Department: Would you believe that we forgot to mention the little fact that, a few months back, **BROADWAY BOB HALL** stepped down as Editor of about half the Marvel color comics line. Bob, as many of you know, is producer and co-author of the off-Broadway hit play, *The Passion of Dracula*. It seems that the show is such a smash that it's opened some new doors for Bob in the world of screenplay-writing and major theatrical endeavors. It was with great sadness that Bob left Marvel, (blasted somewhat by the wild and crazy no-holds-barred party thrown by the staff in his honor) but he promises to fit in some freelance work for us as often as possible. Best of luck from all of us in the Bullpen, Bob! We'll miss you!

ITEM! Second Most Outrageous Oversight of 1978 Department: When Bob Hall stepped down, much-belleaguered Editor-in-Chief Jim (Trouble) Shooter found himself in an uncharacteristically lucky position. As fate would have it, right about then, a long-time Marvel Master Artist and all-time friend of the Bullpen returned from his brief hiatus with... the other guys... and rejoined the fold! He's a true Renaissance man! He pencils! He inks! He writes! He edits! He has 1001 uses around the home and office, and he's an absolute terror on the volleyball court! Those of you who pay attention to the credits already know we're talking about none other than *Amiable* **AL MILGROM**, whose artful delineation of the **CAPTAIN MARVEL** series dazzled Marveldom assembled a couple years back! Al is better than ever, it seems, and raring to go! Besides editing **DAREDEVIL**, **DEFENDERS**, **DOCTOR STRANGE**, **GODZILLA**, **HULK**, **TEAM-UP**, **MICRONAUTS**, **PETER PARKER**, **POWER MAN/IRON FIST**, **TARZAN**, and more, Al's pencilling and inking all over the lot! Check out **HOWARD THE DUCK** #30, for instance! Good to have you with us, Al, and we're sorry we forgot to mention it sooner. The thing is, it seemed so natural to have you back home again, it sort of slipped our minds that you were ever gone!



ITEM! It also bears mentioning that during all this editorial reshuffling somebody was minding the store—namely, faithful Assistant Editor *Mannerly* **MARY JO DUFFY**, who kept things running smoothly. Mary Jo is learning the editorial ropes with amazing alacrity, and it's a safe bet you'll be hearing lots more about this talented lady before long—right now, in fact! It seems that Jo has finally snagged her first regular series, namely **POWER MAN/IRON FIST**, and right off the bat she's made a winner! You've got to see issue #56! You just plain won't believe who **Luke Cage** and the **K'un-Lun Kid** come to scratch against! It may be the mismatch of the century—and not in favor of the good guys! Nope, we



won't ruin the surprise for you—but why let curiosity gnaw at your brain? Run down to your newsstand and buy a copy, already. It's there waiting for you!

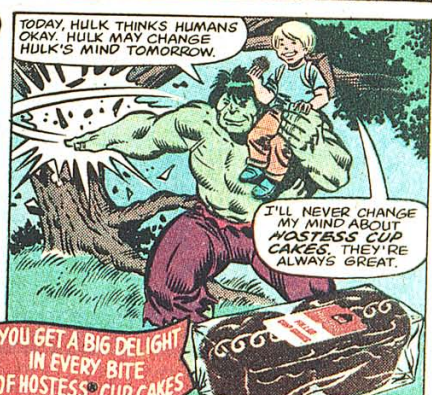
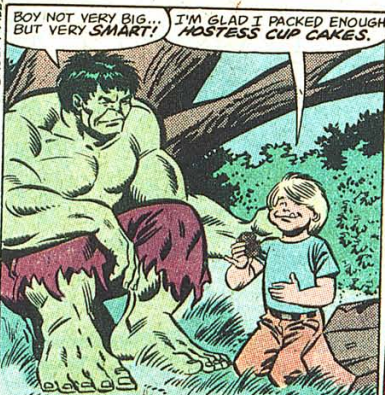
ITEM! Speaking of waiting, it seems that the whole blamed world is breathlessly anticipating the comics event of the year—that being, of course, the 100th issue of **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**! As you read this, issue #97 is just hitting the stands, but for those few of you who aren't regulars (shame!), it's definitely not too early to get in on the building excitement. Actually the continuing saga has been gaining momentum for literally years now, and believe us, the payoff coming up in issue #100 is well worth the waiting. The few holdouts out there (you know who you are) who figure to buy our double-size spectacular hundredth issue as an investment, since it's sure to become a valuable collector's item in record time, but who won't part with a few shekels for the regular issues leading up to it, are actually cheating themselves out of the full glorious impact of this outstanding epic tale. So get with it, guys! You've been warned!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering about **HOWARD THE DUCK** lately, or even if you haven't, here's the scoop. Firstly, *Gentleman* **GENE COLAN**, high-ranking contender for the Greatest Penciler in the Universe title, is back, as is *Super Inker* *Amiable* **AL MILGROM**, and the word for the artwork is *superb*! Ace Writer *Boisterous* **BILL MANTLO** has found his Niche of Destiny with the Duck, and as a result of all this happy harmony of talent, issue #30 of HTD may well be the best ever! What's in it? Well, the return of *Dr. Bong*, for openers, and wait'll you see how *Howie* gears up for the final confrontation with his arch foe! Truck on down to your local magazine shop in a hurry and you may still be able to latch onto a copy of this fowl work—and whatever you do, don't miss next issue. It's even better! Only Marvel could bring you such madness for such a small fee!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

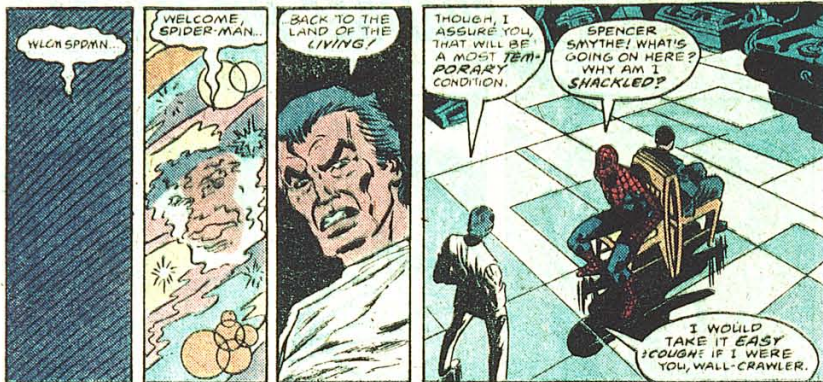
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MARY WOLFGAN
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Mr. Wolfman;

I'm afraid it's no-prize time. In SPIDER-MAN #188, a black-out creates darkness at Cryonics Hospital in New York. The raider on page 1 says, "We only have sixty seconds before the hospital's emergency generator cuts in... and alarms go off" and that's how long it took in the story.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation for Hospitals in their "manual" under "Functional Safety and Sanitation" requires that the hospital emergency generator provide power within ten seconds of a failure of the normal power source.

As a veteran of years of emergency generator testing and the 30-hour long July, 1977 blackout, I can tell you that a properly maintained and tested generator does take over within ten seconds.

If you don't believe me, ask Dr. Donald Blake.

Frank J. Simon, P.E., Director of Plant Operations
New Rochelle Hospital Medical Center
New Rochelle, NY 10802

Dear Frank—
Oops! Your no-prize is in the no-mail.

Or, as Mork would say "Extreme embarrassment...sorrow."

Dear Mary and Everyone,

As an old-timer who's never been able to forget Ditko, I thank you for the cover of SPIDEY #188. But then you knew all us long-time fans would be drooling over that cover. The story has plenty of that old-fashioned feel too, with well over half the book devoted to Peter Parker and his soap opera cast of supporting characters. #188 was a Spidey story in the tradition we haven't seen for years upon years. I hate to think how long it's been since Spidey has stalked a terrified villain through the shadowy waterfront, the Spider-signal stabbing out dramatically to pin-point Spidey's prey wherever he turns, to finish in a confrontation with Spidey dangling casually upside-down from the ceiling. In fact, for most a page 27 I strongly suspected that the ruthlessly stalking Spider-Man existed only in Jigsaw's paranoid imagination. It has been so long since Spidey has hunted a villain so coldly and ruthlessly that it seemed almost out of character. But it wasn't. It was just a side of his character we haven't seen for a while. We even were treated to the irony of a traditional Stan Lee final panel—Spidey's problems crowding his thought balloons while a bystander comments on the carefree life of a super-hero. The character of Jigsaw made it certain that SPIDEY #188 was not simply a copy of a Lee-Ditko comic. Certainly there were sympathetic and human villains in the old days, but none so convincingly reluctant and humanly inept. The Lee-Ditko villains had personality added as a bonus, but Jigsaw's genuinely pathetic personality was the core of his appeal. All the touches from the old days made SPIDEY #188 a good comic, but

it was the final touch of Jigsaw, the 70's villain, that made it an excellent comic.

Archie Grosvenor
Address unknown

Hiya Gents,

I just got SPIDER-MAN #188. The story, as usual, was pretty good though not outstanding (sorry guys, standard criticism). But I saw a peculiarity which I heartily recommend you follow through with in future issues. And that is, the development of "humanness" and human problems for the bad guys, too. Jigsaw's behavior proved his undoing, but this is normal, reasonable, human behavior, even if he happens to be on the wrong side. I'd like to see you continue this and expand on it. Even though Jigsaw seems like a second-rate bad guy all around compared to Doc Ock, Lizard, Kingpin, etc, of old, the way you handled the final chase scene, and your portrayal of his fear, was extremely well done. Keep doing that!

Incidentally, the cover was MAGNIFICENT.

Kirby Rowan
225 Colorado
Portales, NM 88130

Dear Marv,

It was good to see the full supporting cast get a little exposure in SPIDER-MAN #188. Though I'm all in favor of the recently renewed emphasis on Peter Parker and his supporting cast, it does pose a problem. Several times within a very few issues, Peter has been socializing with his friends, a minor villain has popped up, Peter has disappeared, and Spidey has made the scene. I'm all for avoiding the Lois Lane Syndrome of constantly suspicious friends, but these are not stupid people and sooner or later they've got to put two and two together. There is a way around this. Mary Jane and Harry have both seen Peter and Spidey together due to the trick Peter pulled back in #87, and Peter has fostered the illusion down the years that he and Spidey have a business arrangement which accounts for their frequent appearance at the scene of the same crime. If Peter would find occasion to mention his business association with Spidey and his friends would act as if they'd always believed him on that point, it would give the impression that Peter is being very clever about hiding his secret I.D., not that his friends are being incredibly obtuse in not seeing what's right in front of their noses. A minor point, maybe, but not if you're a freak for continuity and realism.

Reggie Bunthorne
Address unknown

Well, that's it for this month what with our shortened lettercol. But we'll be back next month, full-sized, and with answers galore. Seeya in thirty.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)
1. Title of Publication: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2. Issue Date: May 1998
3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly
4. Issue for this month: May 1998
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$5.99
7. Location of Headquarters: 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022
8. Location of the Principal Office of Circulation: 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022
9. Name and Address of the Publisher, Editor and Business Manager: Marvel Comics, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022
10. Name and Address of the Owner: Marvel Comics, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022
11. Name and Address of the Editor: Archie Grosvenor, 225 Colorado, Portales, NM 88130
12. Name and Address of the Business Manager: Kirby Rowan, 225 Colorado, Portales, NM 88130
13. Name and Address of the Circulation Manager: Reggie Bunthorne, Address unknown
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15. Name and Address of the Advertising Manager: Kirby Rowan, 225 Colorado, Portales, NM 88130
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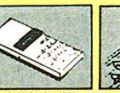
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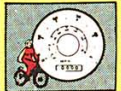
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